

Aylesford Parish Council

Environmental Services Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, on Tuesday 5 August 2025

Present: Councillor Sullivan (Chair) and Councillors, Miss Anderson, Mrs Eves, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Ludlow, Rillie, Sharp, Shelley and Smith.
Melanie Randall (Clerk of the Council)

Also Present: One member of the public

1. Election of Chair

There was one nomination for Chair, Councillor Sullivan. There was a show of hands and Councillor Sullivan was duly elected as Chair of Environmental Services Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence from Councillors Balcombe, Fuller and Ms Oyewusi were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

4. To Agree the Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 July 2025

It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. Any Matters Arising from the last minutes

The Clerk informed the committee that the replacement planters for Blue Bell Hill are scheduled to start being put in this week.

6. To consider renewing the Play Equipment at The Hollow, Aylesford

No update.

Ongoing

7. TMBC Anit-Social Behaviour Team

The report that covered 21 May 2025 to 30 June 2025 was noted.

The Clerk advised the Committee that this project commenced on 21 May 2025. Since then, the team has visited the Parish Office on two occasions - 3rd and 24th July. During their most recent visit, the team advised that they are currently spending a significant amount of time in Snodland and Tonbridge.

The Clerk explained that the team is managed by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC), with the Parish Council feeding in local concerns. This enables the team to be deployed in response to recurring issues at specific locations. Members were encouraged to share any relevant feedback or issues they are hearing from the community with the Clerk so these can be reported to TMBC.

A few issues that were raised by Councillors are dumping of rubbish in Common Road – the Clerk advised that anything like this that the team see is reported to TMBC waste services who then arrange for removal.

The Clerk also raised concerns with the team regarding anti-social behaviour in the Tunbury Hall car park and recreation ground.

In addition, the Clerk informed the Committee that, to her knowledge, the ASB Team liaises with Kent Police. The local Police Officer continues to regularly visit the Parish Office – approximately every 1-2 weeks, providing an ongoing opportunity to raise any relevant issues or concerns with him direct.

Noted

8. Kent Community Rail Partnership Steering Group

It was **Agreed** to note the Notes from the meeting held on 24th July 2025.

The boards are still sitting in the Southern rail office in Maidstone awaiting to be put up, they have been there since 2022. The Clerk has chased several times; however, she will follow this up once again.

Noted

9. Podkin Meadow Rewilding Project

The Clerk reported that she, the Maintenance Supervisor and Councillor Smith had met with a gentleman from the volunteer group at Podkin Meadow to assess whether there is a suitable area on site for the proposed project.

After discussion it was **Agreed** that the Council could allocate a small area for the project, subject to the condition that the volunteer group would be responsible for its ongoing maintenance, including mowing and the removal of cuttings.

Ongoing

10. Any Other Correspondence

The allotment sites were raised, which included their condition, how many vacant ones there are and if Trenport had replied to the Parish Council's request to fund the clearance of the vacant overgrown plots. It was **Agreed** this will be on the next agenda for further discussion.

12. Duration of Meeting

7:47pm to 8:10pm